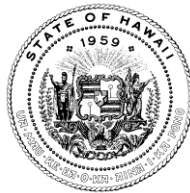


GM683

Measure Title:	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Board of Optometry, Gubernatorial Nominee, WALLACE KOJIMA, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.
Report Title:	Hawai'i Board of Optometry
Current Referral:	CPH



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310

P.O. BOX 541

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Phone Number: 586-2850

Fax Number: 586-2856

cca.hawaii.gov

CATHERINE P. AWAKUNI COLÓN
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
Friday, April 12, 2019
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 683, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAII BOARD OF OPTOMETRY,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WALLACE KOJIMA,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2023**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Catherine Awakuni Colón, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Wallace Kojima's appointment to the Hawaii Board of Optometry (Board) as a licensee member.

Dr. Kojima has over 30 years of experience practicing optometry. He has spent the past 15 years at his own practice, Wally Kojima, O.D. and Associates, in Kailua-Kona. In addition, Dr. Kojima has 15 years of optometry experience in California, and he previously practiced on Oahu at Kojima and Sakamoto, O.D. Inc. in the 1980s. His lengthy experience on the mainland and Hawaii Island will bring a thoughtful perspective to the Board.

The Department believes that Dr. Kojima's interest in serving on the Board, commitment to actively participate in board meetings, and knowledge of and experience in the profession will enhance the Board's effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

April 8, 2019

Dear Senator Rosalyn Baker,

I am writing to support the appointment of Dr. Wally Kojima to the Hawaii Board of Optometry. Dr. Kojima has been our family optometrist for almost 9 years. With top quality care using up to date equipment and his expertise, he has helped each of us to maintain our best vision – whether that be using glasses (regular, bifocals, glasses over contact due to mono vision, reading glasses), contacts, or no visual aid. He always interviews the patient as to what might work best for their lifestyle and takes the time to trial different models to make sure the customer is satisfied. I recommend him to all my friends, and his name is top of the list when I hear others talking of a great optometrist on the island. He has gone above and beyond for our family so many times I can't name them all. A few that stand out include 1) a Christmas day call when my daughter scratched her eye with sand; 2) knowing what medication to recommend with an allergic reaction affecting my eyelids; 3) catching a retinal detachment in my left eye post vitreous detachment and the many follow up calls and questions even though I was then also being treated by a retinal specialist, and; 4) taking a call late Saturday night and agreeing to come in on a Sunday, (his day off) to assess flashing in my right eye and if I could proceed with air travel on Monday. The list could go on.

Wally Kojima is professional, extremely knowledgeable, approachable, thoughtful, and humble. He has gained my trust many times over with the health of my eyes and those of my family. I feel sure Dr. Kojima would be an asset to the Hawaii Board of Optometry. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at mckendry4@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Fiona McKendry

Leonard J.K.H. Kam
P.O. Box 37144
Honolulu, Hawaii 96837
(808) 479-9331

April 4, 2019

Senator Rosalyn Baker
Senate – Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol – Room 230
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Baker:

I am writing to you in support of Dr. Wallace M. Kojima, OD as a nominee for the Hawaii Board of Optometry.

I have known and worked with Dr. Kojima for the past 4-1/2 years. In my occupation as an Executive Vision Care Territory Manager with Bausch & Lomb, I meet with optometrists on a daily basis. It's very easy to tell the character and temperament of the doctor. After interacting and meeting with Wally almost monthly, I can confidently attest that he is truly a man of his word and conducts himself with the utmost integrity. He holds himself to the highest of standards and will carry that to his role on the Board of Optometry.

I wholeheartedly support his nomination and ask that you vote in favor of this as well.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leonard J. K. H. Kam', followed by a horizontal line.

Leonard J. K. H. Kam